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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 02:56:57 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

April 07, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1059 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: USEMBASSY ABU DHABI DOMINATES  
UAE MEDIA COVERAGE AT END OF MARCH  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01059

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER  
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN  
CLEARED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER

VZCZCADI648  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #1059/01 0981327  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 071327Z APR 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3887  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0782  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0820  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 001059

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STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;  
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
LONDON ALSO PASS TO MOC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: USEMBASSY ABU DHABI DOMINATES  
UAE MEDIA COVERAGE AT END OF MARCH

¶1. SUMMARY: DESPITE OVERWHELMINGLY BAD NEWS EMANATING FROM IRAQ AND ISRAEL, THE COVERAGE OF PA ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF MARCH WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS QUANTITY AND UPBEAT TONE. FOLLOWING SPECIAL MEDIA TOUR AND EXTENDED COVERAGE OF THE NEW EMBASSY COMPOUND EARLY IN THE MONTH, POST ARRANGED A TOUR OF THE VISITING AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE OPENING OF THE FIRST UAE AMERICAN STUDIES CORNER, MEDIA FOR FOUR VISITS BY OFFICIALS AND EX-OFFICIALS, AND PLACEMENT OF TWO OP-EDS BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD ARMITAGE AND A/S MARCH GROSSMAN. PA

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ALSO HANDLED LOCAL, ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE MISSION FOLLOWING A SECURITY THREAT.

¶2. MARCH 16: POST ARRANGED A TOUR OF THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, WHICH WAS VISITING THE PORT OF JEBEL ALI, FOR A GROUP OF UAE JOURNALISTS REPRESENTING ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES, THE EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY AND SATELLITE CHANNEL AL-ARABIYAH. AL-ARABIYAH CARRIED A 5-MINUTE REPORT BASED ON THE VISIT ON THE MAIN EVENING NEWSCAST WHICH WAS REPEATED THREE TIMES. ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES CARRIED PROMINENT STORIES WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, GIVING UP TO 3/4 PAGE TO THE SHIP VISIT.

¶3. MARCH 20: POST PLACED THE OP-ED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY RICHARD ARMITAGE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY "AL ITTIHAD" ON 03/21. THIS ARTICLE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN IRAQ AND NOTED THAT IN THE PRESENT WAR AGAINST TERRORISM, WINNING THE HEARTS AND MINDS IS AS IMPORTANT AS WINNING THE MILITARY BATTLES.

¶4. MARCH 20: PA ARRANGED A ONE-ON-ONE FOR WILLIAM LASH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MARKET ACCESS AND COMPLIANCE WITH

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SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" AND DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" ON 3/21. IN ADDITION, HE APPEARED ON A TV INTERVIEW ON THE DUBAI BUSINESS CHANNEL. IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH "AL KHALEEJ," ASSISTANT SECRETARY LASH NOTED THAT THE GULF INVESTMENTS IN THE U.S. WERE NOT AFFECTED NEGATIVELY BY 9/11 AND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT GULF INVESTMENTS IN THE U.S. HAVE INCREASED LATELY. HE ALSO ENCOURAGED GULF INVESTERS TO INVEST IN IRAQ. DURING HIS PRESENTATION THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY PRAISED THE UAE ECONOMY AND THE OPEN INVESTMENT ATMOSPHERE THAT IS PROVIDED TO THE INVESTERS BY THE UAEG.

¶5. MARCH 21: PA ARRANGED A TELEVISION INTERVIEW FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM BURNS WITH ABU DHABI TELEVISION, WHICH WAS

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AIRED ON THE SAME DAY, AND A ONE-ON-ONE WITH ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT ARABIC DAILY "AL ITTIHAD." AT BOTH EVENTS, AMBASSADOR BURNS REITERATED U.S. COMMITMENT TO BRING ABOUT PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST BASED ON THE ROADMAP AND PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISION FOR ISRAEL AND PALESTINE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH EACH OTHER.

¶6. MARCH 22: PA ARRANGED A VISIT FOR 21 JUNIOR UAE DIPLOMATS FROM THE UAE INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY TO THE NEW U.S. EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI. THIS WAS THEIR FIRST VISIT TO ANY FOREIGN MISSION. THE DIPLOMATS (THE GROUP INCLUDED 7 WOMEN) MET WITH AMBASSADOR MARCELLE WAHBA, LISTENED TO PRESENTATIONS BY VARIOUS HEADS OF SECTION AT THE EMBASSY, HAD LUNCH IN THE CAFETERIA AND TOURED THE NEWLY DEDICATED EMBASSY COMPOUND, ENDING WITH AN EXPLANATION OF CONSULAR PROCEDURES. PA WORKED WITH THE MEDIA COORDINATOR AT THE INSTITUTE AND SENT A PRESS RELEASE TO THE LOCAL MEDIA WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN ALL ARABIC DAILIES ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

¶7. MARCH 23: PA ARRANGED A PRESS ROUNDTABLE AND A ONE-ON-ONE WITH ABU DHABI TELEVISION WITH AMBASSADOR RONALD NEUMANN, THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT THE CPA IN IRAQ. COVERAGE OF NEUMANN'S REMARKS WAS CARRIED IN ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES AND THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER "AL-HAYAT". ABU DHABI TELEVISION CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS OF THE INTERVIEW ON THE MAIN NEWSCAST AND ON THEIR EVENING NEWS PROGRAM.

¶8. MARCH 24: PA PLACED OP-ED BY A/S MARC GROSSMAN IN THE ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD".

¶9. MARCH 24 AND MARCH 27: PA SENT OFFICIAL STATEMENT ANNOUNCING TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE EMBASSY DUE TO A SECURITY THREAT. STATEMENT RE-OPENING THE EMBASSY CARRIED IN MARCH 27 PAPERS. ALL LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CARRIED ARTICLES AND HIGHLIGHTED EMBASSY THANKS TO UAE GOVERNMENT FOR SWIFT REACTION AND EXCELLENT COOPERATION.

¶10. MARCH 27: PAO AND PA STAFF ACCOMPANIED AMBASSADOR WAHBA TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE AMERICAN STUDIES CORNER AT THE UAE UNIVERSITY. PA PREPARED FACT SHEETS, BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS BOTH IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH AND DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA. COVERAGE IN THE FOLLOWING DAY WAS UNPRECEDENTED. ALL ARABIC AND TWO ENGLISH DAILIES CARRIED PROMINENT PHOTOS AND STORIES ON THE OPENING.

¶11. MARCH 27: PA ARRANGED A PRESS ROUNDTABLE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND A ONE-ON-ONE WITH ABU DHABI TELEVISION FOR AMBASSADOR DAVID MACK, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE.

¶12. MARCH 27: PA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE VISIT OF JEAN ABI NADER, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE ARAB-AMERICAN INSTITUTE TO THE UAE. POST ARRANGED A PRESENTATION AT THE DUBAI PRESS CLUB FOR MEMBERS OF THE UAE MEDIA, DURING WHICH HE EXPLAINED THE GROWING ROLE OF ARAB AMERICANS IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE UPCOMING PRESENTIAL ELECTIONS. A TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH THE NEWS SATELLITE CHANNEL AL-ARABIYAH WAS ALSO ARRANGED.

WAHBA